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FACT SHEET

Afghanistan Better Health for Afghanistan Mothers and Children – Child Survival Project (BHAMC)

OVERVIEW

The Better Health for Afghanistan Mothers and Children (BHAMC) is a four-year project implemented by World Vision Afghanistan in five districts of Hirat province. The project reaches out to 157,419 children under five and 294,305 women of reproductive age, especially pregnant and lactating women, to support sustained improvements in maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes.

ACTIVITIES

- **Increasing immunization coverage** – Trains vaccinators to monitor vaccine distribution, injection safety, and waste disposal practices; conducts supervisory visits of vaccination sites with NGOs and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to ensure quality control; and ensures an adequate supply of vaccines, vitamin A, syringes, and safety boxes.
- **Improving infant and young child feeding practices** – Trains mothers to provide nutritious, yet inexpensive, food for their children; increases growth monitoring in local health facilities; and mobilizes women's groups to support breastfeeding.
- **Improving maternal and newborn care** – Conducts training for midwives and doctors in maternity units. Training addresses the use of partographs¹ to manage labor, infection prevention, active management of the third stage of labor, and proper care for prolonged labor and post-abortion complications. Midwives, community health workers, and mothers receive training in the proper care of low birth-weight babies; as well as ensuring vitamin A supplementation for new mothers. Additionally, the project reaches out to the community leaders and councils to promote antenatal care and the presence of skilled attendants during birth.
- **Preventing and controlling diarrhea** – Ensures adequate supply of zinc for children with diarrhea; provides chlorine water purification materials and instruction to remote households; promotes exclusive breastfeeding and introducing food at age six months; and counsels mothers on care and feeding for ill children.
- **Preventing pneumonia** – Supplies essential drugs and referral care, and conducts training for licensed healthcare providers and community health workers.

RESULTS

- Distributed zinc supplements and other medicines to supported health facilities to improve diarrheal disease prevention and management.
- Conducted health facility and health staff assessments and provided training to correct the problems identified by the assessments.
- 10 maternity hospital staff from Hirat attended a three-day training on baby-friendly hospital initiatives at the Malalai Hospital in Kabul and began implementing better infant care practices in Hirat Maternity Hospital.
- Conducted a one-day training on the use of partographs during labor for 16 midwives, nurses, and doctors working at Hirat Maternity Hospital.

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¹ The partograph is a graphic tool used by midwifery personnel to assess the progress of labor and to identify when intervention is necessary. Studies have shown that partographs can be highly effective in reducing complications from prolonged labor for the mother and the newborn.